



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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Filmmaker Giovanna Chesler to Screen Her New Film “Period: The End of Menstruation?” on May 20 at Malcolm X Library

SAN DIEGO – The Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch of the San Diego Public Library will present a special screening of the new film “Period: The End of Menstruation?” on Saturday, May 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. The film will be shown at the branch library, located at 5148 Market St., and filmmaker Giovanna Chesler, a professor at UCSD’s Department of Communication, will be present to facilitate a discussion after the film.

Might menstruation be a thing of the past? In this current cultural moment, pills and shots are used by millions of women and girls to suppress menstruation for months and years at a time. Some scientists and health practitioners maintain that technology can and should make periods obsolete. Some see menstruation as defining the essence of the female experience. In the film, women and men from across the United States and diverse backgrounds and communities engage with the meaning of menstruation. This film inspires women and girls, fathers, partners and doctors to make better, more informed choices about women’s bodies and women’s health.

Calling for reflection around this taboo subject, the film serves as a beginning to much needed public conversation on a pressing women’s health issue that affects millions of women on a global scale. This debate on menstrual suppressants is very timely and long overdue. New studies reveal that hormones in pharmaceuticals have environmental consequences: hormones from the millions of people on birth control end up in our drinking water through excretion.

A narrative and documentary filmmaker, writer, editor and cinematographer, Chesler is dedicated to producing films that explore social constructions of gender, beauty, identity and sexuality. Sound practice, sound theory and documentary theory figure prominently in her film work and critical research. Chesler’s background in anthropology, archaeology and women’s studies also informs her films and critical writing. She serves as the director of programs for the San Diego Women Film Foundation and is the primary cinematographer in a forthcoming six-part documentary series on violence prevention produced by Discovery Education Networks.

For more information, please call the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library at 619-527-3405 or visit the Library at www.sandiego.gov/public-library.

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